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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Gorman Platform.

The Democratic platform, or policy, for the campaign of 1900, proposed by ex-Senator GORMAN of Maryland, is, in accordance with that statesman's habit, a masterpiece of negation and noncommitment. It is for nothing by being for everything, this, in Mr. GORMAN'S opinion, being the only way in which the Democracy can hide from the antagonisms that were fatal in 1896.

Let no plank of the Chicago platform, said Mr. GORMAN, bravely, be left out. Let no man repudiate his principles. Put in every idea and sentiment entertained within the borders of the Democracy. The the same level that no single one will to anti-Bryan Democrats. With that in hand let us go for the Republicans.

This is a Democrat-for-harmony-only's idea of Democratic "harmony." It may grate somewhat upon Col. BRYAN's more stalwart method of declaring his principles; but what will Col. BRYAN say in complaint if he gets the nomination?

Mr. GORMAN's scheme is fortified by the in New York city in 1898 and in the Marylarge will be found to have sunk so low.

One or the Other Heretical.

It was obvious when the case against the Rev. Dr. McGIFFERT was dismissed by the New York Presbytery, with nothing more than a gentle admonition to him to discontinue teaching in a Presbyterian theological seminary doctrines contradictory to the Westminster Confession, that the charges would go on appeal to the General Assembly, which meets at St. Louis next May. Such an appeal has now been entered by the Rev.

The Presbytery shoved aside the case in necessity of a heresy trial, but, of course, such an issue as that raised by the teach ings of Dr. McGIFFERT cannot be avoided. Either the Presbyterian Church must try the heretic or proceed forthwith to transform its confession of faith according to his teachings. If it is not in sympathy with him it must repudiate his doctrines by repudiating him.

Logically and practically the General Assembly must treat him as it treated Dr. BRIGGS, unless meanwhile there has come over it a radical change in its doctrinal conviction. It would forfeit public respect by professing belief in a standard of faith which it suffered its ministers to deny in their public teachings.

Perhaps the time has come for Briggsizing the Westminster Confession. It certainly has come if the Presbyterian Church now tolerates the method and views of Dr. McGIFFERT, and if that is the case common honesty requires that the General Assembly change so that all men may know of it.

The plea that annoyance and distress would be caused by meeting this issue aquarely is an excuse for evading it which can only be made by cowardice. The great power which has been exercised in this past has been due to its courageous fidelity to conviction and bold avowal of honest belief. The Westminster Confession has been one of the most notable influences in the intellectual education of the most stalwart minds of the American people, and its overthrow now by teachings like those of tance in our religious history; but the surrender, if made, ought to be made openly and not by cowardly connivance

with its enemies. One or the other is heretical-either Dr. McGIFFERT or the Westminster Confession, and the question as to which it is must be decided by the brave minds of the Presbyterian Church.

The Two Canal Bills in the Senate and House.

We observe that in discussing the Hepburn canal bill the Chicago Inter-Ocean is somewhat misled as to its exact relation Senate by Senator Sullivan of Mississippi. Our esteemed contemporary remarks:

"The Senate bill requests or instructs the Presi dent to negotiate with Great Britain for the abroga-tion or modification of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty so to enable the United States to own, construct maintain, and operate under its exclusive jurisdiction a canal across the isthmus. The Senate officially recognizes that the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is in force. Why this difference between the Senate and shall not be eligible to detail to the is in earnest in its efforts to secure the construction of a canal under Government control, and HEPBURN

of Iowa is not. The course recommended by the Senate contem plates the amendment of the Hay-Pauncerote Treaty and the construction of an American canal. The course recommended by HEPBURN of Iowa contemplates the rejection of any new treaty, and the defeat of any measure for the construction of an American canal."

As originally introduced about the middle of December last, the Senate bill did instruct the President to negotiate with Great Brit-Clayton-Bulwer Treaty "to such extent as to enable the United States to own, construct, nent appointments are to serve one year in maintain, and operate under its exclusive jurisdiction a canal across the isthmus." That is probably what the Inter-Ocean has in mind. The Sullivan bill, however, went to the Senate Committee on Interoceanic Canals, and, on January 16, was reported to be filled by officers returning from tours back from that Committee by Mr. MORGAN, text of the measure.

Committee on Interoceanic Canals, just as may also be supposed that the Inspector bathrooms were known they swooped down the amended Hepburn bill is now the bill General's Department will be united with on a naphtha-lighted Harvard that still

sanctioned and reported by the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

The Senate Canal bill and the House

Canal bill are now substantially the same measure. Barring a few slight verbal differences of no significance, they are identical except in these two particulars: 1. The Senate bill directs the Secretary of

War to construct "such fortifications for the defence of the canal as will be required for the convenience and safety of all vessels desiring the use of the canal." The House bill directs the Secretary of War to construct "such fortifications for defence as will be required and harbors.

2. The Senate bill appropriates \$140,-000,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to be drawn from time to time as the money shall be needed. The House bill directly appropriates only \$10,000,000 partment to enter into contracts for work the canal, not to exceed \$140,000,000 in the aggregate.

These two variations do not imply any the canal promoters in the Senate and those circumstance that the Hepburn or House measure is the later to be revised. The Hepburn version is by a month more nearly up to date than the Morgan version.

So far as one possesses any advantage over the other, the House bill, as our esteemed contemporary will perceive, emphasizes more, and the more contradictory, the a little more clearly, in its provisions better. But put them all so carefully on regarding defence, the American intention to operate the canal, in peace and war, under catch the public eye. Let the Democratic its exclusive jurisdiction; and we believe programme be as a blank page on which this feature will commend itself to the can be found nothing at least repellant Inter-Ocean, which patriotically maintains that the canal must be under American and not European control.

Tea.

The Viceroy of India, Lord Curzon, is about to visit Assam, the largest of the teagrowing regions in the British East Indies, to study the needs of its greatest industry. prestige of success in the Congress election | Ten culture is important only in a few countries of Asia, and up to twenty years land election for Governor in 1809. It is ago China produced nearly all the tea the not probable that in 1900 the country at world consumed. Then Japan began to compete with her, and, a little later, tea planting was vigorously developed in Assam, Bengal and Ceylon.

These British possessions soon outstripped Japan and steadily gained upon nina. Their acreage has more than doubled within twenty years, and the export business has grown by leaps and bounds, while that China has decreased, chiefly because Great Britain and her colonies have withdrawn over two-thirds of their tea trade from China and given it to the British East Indies. Greater skill and better machinery for preparing the leaf placed the teas of India and Ceylon in the front of the mar- rooms are filled, has suffered from the withdrawal of order to escape from the disagreeable ket; and in 1896 China, the native home of the tea plant, saw her rivals sell 268,000. Scknowledged centre of undergraduate life. The 000 pounds of tea, while her own exports were 229,000,000 pounds.

Vast numbers of tea drinkers prefer China tea to the East Indies teas. The United States and Russia are still faithful to the older grower. China is awakening to the need of doing something to recover at least a part of what she has lost, and so in the past two years she has brought a considerable amount of machinery to Fuchow and elsewhere and the adoption of new methods of curing.

The tea standards established under our law of 1897 have also had the effect to improve the quality of the teas sent to this country, where some millions of pounds were rejected soon after the law became operative. China needs only to keep abreast of the times to compete successfully with India and Ceylon; but the fact that a Viceroy of India, for the first time, will visit Assam in the interest of the tea crop is one should plainly and frankly announce the among many evidences that competition in the trade is fierce indeed.

The New Army Bill.

The bill which Secretary Root has prepared to increase the efficiency of the Army country by the Presbyterian Church in the | proposes changes in the Armfy which impartial and intelligent students of our military establishment must approve. In the first place, the President is

empowered to retire any permanent head of a staff department, and, by and with the advice of the Senate, to appoint his successor from the Army at large; any head of Dr. Briggs and Dr. McGiffert would a staff department retired while holding constitute an event of the greatest impor- that post to have the retired rank and pay of the grade held when retired. Vacancies in the Adjutant-General's and the Inspector-General's departments are to be filled for terms of four years by officers detailed from the line, selections to be made by boards of three officers on duty in the department in which a vacancy exists for reason of service record. Officers thus detailed are to have the rank and pay of the next higher grade than that actually held by them. After four years officers detailed to these departments may be returned to any branch of the service, and must serve one year in the line before they can be detailed again to a staff department. If to the similar measure introduced in the not redetailed after one year, they are to return to the arm in which they are com-

> Officers detailed in the same way to the other staff departments-the Quartermaster's, the Subsistence Department, the Ordnance Department, the Signal Corps-after four years are to return to the arm from which they were detailed, staff for a year. The difference between the treatment of officers detailed to the two executive departments and that of officers detailed to what may be called the supply departments is due to an intention to educate the officers of the Adjutant-General's and Inspector-General's departments in all branches of the service, thus fitting them for performing the duties of

Chiefs of Staff in war. Officers now in the staff departments are to be promoted according to seniority; all ain for the abrogation or modification of the officers of those departments below the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel holding permafive in the line, without vacating their staff commissions. When the number of officers detailed to the staff equals the number authorized for duty in each department, vacancies caused by details to the staff are of staff duty. By these provisions the with the provision in question stricken out, staffs are made more flexible; and so, and other important changes made in the | it may be added, is the line. The custom | to sentiment and invest his money where which exists of leaving one regiment half This amended Sullivan bill, without the destitute of officers, while another has every provision for negotiation to abrogate or post filled, simply because an officer has modify the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, is the | been commissioned in a particular regi-Canal bill now before the Senate. It is the | ment, will go out of favor, and officers will bill sanctioned and reported by the Senate | be sentwhere their services are needed. It | cold water and efficient service and private

the Adjutant-General's, and the Subsistence

with the Quartermaster's Department. The second of the most important provisions abolishes the present regimental organization in the artillery, and reorganand cavalry arms.

out of every three promotions to the grades for the safety and protection of said canal of Colonel, Lieutenant-Colonel and Major brought up to look upon as the common shall be by selection for merit, thus holding out to junior officers the prospect of speedy reward for meritorious services.

The bill is adapted to fit any sized army, needing little change if Congress should increase or even diminish the Army. It is at the start, but it authorizes the War De. | adapted admirably to fulfil the purposes outlined by Secretary Roor in his annual needed for the construction and defence of report: to secure a reasonable opportunity for selection in line promotion, to make the staff flexible and break up its excessive bureaucratic tendencies. difference of general purpose as between and to give the artillery a modern organization. These aims are reached by in the House. They result simply from the the bill with such jealous safeguarding should excite little opposition in Congress, and should soon become a law.

Revolution in Harvard Life.

A remarkable change brought about in the last half dozen years in the college life at Harvard, one that removes many bonds of interest between the present and the future graduates of the college, is announced by Prof. LEBARON RUSSELL Baiggs, Dehn of Harvard College, in his annual report to the President of that institution. The College Yard has ceased to be the centre of undergraduate life, which has been trans'erred to an "inferior part of the city in and about Mount Auburn street." Save for an occasional visit, by invitation, to the Dean, or, it may happen, for a recitation, the great body of Harvard students has no longer any oceasion to visit the Old Quadrangle. Dean Briggs accepts the change with stoical submission to the inevitable, but cannot help sighing: "All this, though it has come to pass naturally, causes regret to those who remember when a room in Holworthy was the goal of an undergraduate's ambition and the Yard was all in all." His statement of the existing conditions and their causes is as follows:

"Now that most of our students must live outside the Yard, the college dormitories have lost in part the hold they once had on the undergraduate's affection. Thus there has come about a growing competition between college buildings and luxurious private dormitories, a competition which even our tion, have failed to check. Two buildings outside the Yard, Conant Hall and Holyoke House, are not nearly full, and the Old Quadrangle, though its much that used to belong to it when it was the richer and more fashionable students flock to an nferlor part of the city, in and about Mount Auburn street. This region, because cheap and accessible, has become a nest of clubhouses, which the new private dermitories are conveniently near. . . . The more healthful and attractive parts of the city are now looked upon as queer places for a student of social eminence to live in."

To all but the latest of Harvard graduates the Dean's statement will be startling and unpleasant news. Living at a distance from Cambridge, they have heard, to be sure, that many new private dormitories have been erected and they have heard tales, too, of the sumptuous manner in which some of these are fitted. Some, doubtless, have nohave taken all this as the necessary result of crease in wealth. They have had no idea stretching far to the north, that they have inspected. Even if they have noticed tail buildings in the direction of the Charles River, they have supposed them part of the metamorphosis of Cambridge from a suburban town into a city. That the heart of the tenement houses and car shops of their day, they certainly did not suspect.

The competition with private dorms tories, in the intense form it has taken of existed for many years past, but until six | probably survive the shock." years ago the conveniences supplied in them were only just enough superior to those provided in the best college buildings to attract fastidious men or such as were disappointed in obtaining rooms in the Yard. To modern improvements in buildaverse, partly through conservatism, but partly also through an academic regard for Spartan simplicity. When President ELIOT came into office thirty years ago, for instance, though the carpets on the floor and the cushions in the window seats might have seemed effeminate luxury to earlier graduates, the "richer and more fashionable" seniors in Holworthy, as well as their less favored comrades in the other buildings, tramped up and down their four flights of stairs with coal scuttle and water pail, and chums learned those habits of mutual concession on which all domestic happiness is built: in settling which should get up first to light the fire. There was a lot of good and of fun in the life, and though he may have grumbled at the time, no old graduate looks back on it with aught but pleasure. It was twenty years after President Eliot's accession when the most necessary sanitary appliances were first provided for Hollis and Stoughton Halls, and now, after thirty years, though an earnest advocate of frequent bathing and reprobater of student negligence in that regard, the President announces another concession

to luxury in this regretful strain: "The deficit (is) caused by the heavy cost of put ing bathrooms into all the dormitories in the College Yard and into College House . . . "A certain college fund has really been paid out for improvements in the public dormitories at Cambridge, improvements which the rising scale of comfort in the community at large has compelled the

When even the Dean of Harvard College in an official report can poke fun at the corporation's bathrooms as "a belated tribute to modern civilization," it is not to be wondered if the student, who is accustomed to some home comforts, should close his heart

he can obtain some adequate return. Six years ago the Arcadian simplicity of Cambridge was invaded by aggressive speculators. From a world where electricity and elevators and steam heat and hot and

trusted to the goody's cleansing broom They put up one skyscraper after another, built, not after college plans, but after those of modern city apartment houses. More than twenty of these are named izes that arm as a Corps of Artillery, with now in the college catalogue, and some a Colonel as Chief of Artillery, and with the of the buildings are fully as large as any battery as the tactical unit, the size of the | college hall. They studied the tastes of the battery of coast artillery depending on the tenants they wished to secure before buildneeds of each post garrisoned, and the in- ing. They used business methods in atcrease in the number of artillerymen to be tracting customers, with the result that gradual and at the expense of the infantry sentiment, a weakness distinctly discouraged by the college authorities, has yielded An important provision directs that one | in the case of the students to the rational desire for comforts which they have been

accessories of civilized life. Harvard Coilege, therefore, finds some of its rooms untenanted, and is likely to find still more unoccupied in the future. President Eliot says, philosophically: "Just at present there is an oversupply of students' | imperialist meetings. rooms in the neighborhood of the university, the building of private dormitories having been somewhat overdone." The difficulty may be temporary, and it is to be hoped that it is, but the chances seem to be against the preponderance of the college dormitories. The Harvard Corporation will have to wake up to the exigencies of modern life in living accommodations of existing rights of staff officers that it It must make a vigorous fight to win back the undergraduates' affections to the Yard. Harvard without the Yard would be as salt that hath lost its savor.

The Red Coat and the Sword.

The historic red coat of the British sol dier, except for dress parade purposes must go. So must the sword of the British infantry officer. Such appears to be the verdict of the ablest military critics now watching the contest in South Africa at the

"It is absurd," says the Cape Town cor respondent of the Lond m Times. "that our oldiers and volunteers should wear a uniform which is useless for the purposes of war in England or France just as much as in South Africa." The dingy khaki uniform principally worn by the British troops now on service in the war with the Transyaal Republic furnishes the desired invisibility at long rifle range better than anything which has yet been devised; but it has proved to be extremely important that it should not be ornamented by bright buttons or any shining metallic object, whose gleam in the South African sunshine will enable the Boer sharpshooter to detect the presence of a foe who otherwise would remain unseen.

While condemning the red coat and prais ing khaki, the critics to whom we refer do not despair of preserving variety and at tractiveness in military uniforms. "There would not be the least difficulty," says new bathrooms, a belated tribute to modern civilizathe writer from whom we have already quoted, "in devising a large variety of smart uniforms, practically as invisible as khaki at any distance over 200 yards. All that is necessary is that certain elementary optical rules regarding the blending of colors should be observed and that no separate patch of bright colors should exceed a certain size." It seems however, that certain colors commonly re garded as inconspicuous have been fatally attractive to the Boer riflemen; and that this is particularly true of the dark green kilt worn by the Highlanders in some of the earlier engagements.

The abolition of the infantry officer's sword and the substitution of a rifle there for are likewise demanded by the practical experience of the British military forces in South Africa up to the present time of writing. Indeed, the fieldglass is coming to be ticed a marked disproportion between their regarded as more important to such officers sons college bills and their own. But they than any weapon which can be placed in

But these lessons concerning the red coat and the sword are not the only ones that their sons looked on the old buildings | being taught by the contest in South Africa. and the old elms in the Yard as mere historic | The famous "John P. Robinson, he" was curiosities. When they themselves have of the opinion that "they didn't know visited Harvard at commencement time it is everythin' down in Judee." Some people to the Yard they have gone at once, and are beginning to realize that there are things where their interest and legs were strong about war which are not perfectly underenough, it is the new college buildings stood in England. A glimmering notion of the usefulness of mounted infantry is observable; and then, too, doubt seems to have arisen as to the value of the field day exercises and manoguves in which the British soldier has been trained so much at home. Read this from the diary of another college lay there, in that outer darkness of | London Times correspondent at Sterkstrom, with Gen. GATACRE's division:

the men will not be similarly handled in actual fighting. No regard whatever for ground; shut eyes, late at least, is a new problem for the Har- put the head down and go straight like a built at vard corporation. Such dormitories have gate, but in such loose order that the gate would

Live and learn, was the old motto. It seems to be die and learn, with the British in South Africa.

The Populist National Committee had a moment of majestic wisdom when it chose ings the Harvard Corporation has everbeen | Sioux Falls as the site of the Populist National Convention. The capital of the Hon. RICHARD FRANKLIN PETTIGREW is the likeliest spot in the world for an assembly of Populist thinkers.

The Philadelphia guarantors of the \$100. 000 convention fund (still \$55,000 "shy") held a stirring meeting on WASHINGTON'S Birthday to reassure the Republican National Committee of their determination to raise the balance still due before the date of the June convention. These were the four most exciting episodes of the meeting as described locally; First-The statement by Mayor ASHBRIDGE that unless the guarantee fund is forthcoming the Republican National Convention would be held at the Madison Square Garden, New

Second-Sharp criticisms by the Mayor of the wool-trade men and those engaged in the iron trade in Philadelphia who, with one or tw notable exceptions, had not responded to appeals for money with sufficient generosity.

Third-The announcement that the commit tee had never obtained the consent of the Philadelphia museums, the Franklin Institute and the stockholders for the use of the Exposition Auditorium for the convention hall. Fourth-The indorsement by JACOB SEED

and his associates of the Finance Committee of the project of amalgamating-a Philadelphia idiom-the Citizens' Committee with the May or's Committee in aid of the belated balance of the guarantee.

The plans for the necessary alteration of the Exposition Auditorium, which are to cost \$25,000, have, by some inadvertence, not yet been authorized officially, and the use of the hall to make such alterations appears to be withheld by the directors of the building. As it is intended to seat 14,790 persons, a majority of whom may otherwise be compelled either to stand up or to bring portable campstools, this neglect is a serious breach of precaution and should engage the immediate attention of the guarantors. The chief delay, however, is with the contributors, who are very backward in coming forward-according to New York, Boxton, Chicago, San Francisco and St. Louis schedule. The Philadelphians describe pay ments of subscriptions as "money rolling in. \$5,554.50 has rolled in during the past four veeks. \$14.480 rolled in on Thursday, and there are expectations of several thousand

It is essenti I. Pailadelphia enthusiasts need

once more to be reminded, that \$55,000 should 'roll in" before June 1, or the convention will come to New York.

The Texas Legislature succeeded in adjourning without squeezing the plutocrats. Its dream and its hope of taxation were not made facts. Consequently it deserved well of the State. It talked earnestly for thirty days and did not much of anything; a record o which any Legislature might be proud.

The whole anti-imperialist movement i seen and summarized in this account of the reading by Boston school children of certain essays for which prizes had been offered by ATEINSON, BRADFORD, GARRISON and the three or four other Massachusetts anti-imperial-

"Their papers were heartily applauded by the few people present. The few people present heartily applauded one another: that is the true effigy of anti-

The Democratic National Committee wishes to be regarded as a serious body, but it jests intentionally in its call. It invites "all Democratic conservative reform citizens" to

join the Bryan show. A remarkably neat

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

piece of humor.

There seems to be some exaggeration in the descriptions that have been coming in during the last twenty-four hours of the attack and defence of the position taken up by Gen. Cronie on the road to Bloemfontein, now stated to be in the vicinity of Petrusberg. a place about five miles east of Paarde berg and forty-seven miles from Ploemfontein. It would appear to be humanly impossible that the 8,000 men, more or less, said to be with Gen. Cronje, cooped up in a small area, should be able to withstand the fire described as being poured into them by the British artillery at short range. Either the 8,000 men have resolved to offer themselves as a sacrifice to enable the forces hurrying up from the south and other directions to concentrate on the new line of defence, wherever that may be, or there are nothing like 8,000 men with Gen. Cronte, and those that are have been able to construct such intrenchments that the British artillery fire is compar-

atively innocuous. There is, however, a notable discrepancy in the despatches received describing the locality of the fighting. The first despatch in yesterday's Sun speaks of the British having completely surrounded the retreating Roers at Koodoes Rand Drift, which is north of Paardeberg; while a Cape Town despatch dated a day earlier says that THE SUN correspondent learns that Gen. Cronje is surrounded at Petrusberg, forty miles east of Jacobsdal, and some distance south of the Molder. Leaving these divergencies to be explained later on, it is evident that whatever the number of Boers may be who have arrested the British advance to Bloemfontein, they are making a fight which extorts the admiration even of their enemies

The reports of the movements of both the British and Boers in the neighborhoods of Stormberg and Colesberg, attest that the Boers have already begun their march northward It is, however, to be noted, that nothing has been heard of Gen. Prinsloo, whose command was last spoken of as being at Koffyfontein, on the south bank of the Riet River, after it had intercepted Gen. French's rear guard and captured several thousand cattle and some 200 wagons. Of its strength, nothing was known, but it seems to have been sufficient to prevent Gen. French risking the object of his march, by halting to engage it. It has been stated, but on what authority is not said, that the Boers were taking up positions behind a stream in front of Bloemfontein about twenty miles, the left resting on a large kopje covered by a number of smaller ones, its centre being at Assvogel Kop just north of the road into Bloemfontein, and the right covered by the angle formed by this stream and the Modder. On the other hand. despatches from Lorenzo Marques say that rumors are persistent that the capital of the Free State was being moved from Bloemfontein to Winburg, north of the Vet River, which has already been designated as the first line of defence in the northern part of the Free State

With regard to the operations in Natal, both the British and Boer reports agree in saying that Gen. Buller's progress is slow, and both sides were employing their artillery vigorously One British battalion suffered a loss of 125 offcers and men killed, wounded and missing in the fighting on Tuesday and Wednesday. The impression at the British headquarters, however, appeared to be that the Boer resistance was to cover the retreat of their entire army. On the whole the situation is very obscurfor the moment, the most remarkable feature in it being, of course, the resistance of Gen. Cronje, Gen. French with his mounted division. variously estimated at from ten to twelve thousand, is said to be holding off any rednforcements trying to open a retreat for the hard-pressed General. The first force that appeare I was easily scattered, being composed of aly 500 men, with Gen. Botha from Natal. but the contingents that should have concentrated about Bloemfontein by now must num ber several thousands.

A late and interesting despatch from the Boer side confirms the surmise that the earlier reports about Gen. Cronje and his desperate position were exaggerated.

The Boer official account now shows that they were rumors without serious foundation, and that what has been described as the principal action in what has been pass ing was in reality only an incident. The Boer losses in the several fights tha have taken place are reported to be trifling, while the British assault of the Boer intrenchments at Petrusberg is said to have been repulsed with heavy loss. It is eviden that the Boer resistance is more formidable than expected or reported from the British

Consumption.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Some recen communications in THE SUN in regard to the cure of consumption have urged me to bring to notice the Ralston Health Club of Washington, D. C., and its publications. The natural cure which they sug gest has proved wholly effective on my lungs, which were in bad condition. It consists mainly in per sistently supplying them with an abundance of air and especially in blowing through a short piece pipe stem to open up the undeveloped cells which exist in marses and can take the place of those cater up by germs. In extreme cases the blowing mus be very gentle at first. Great care to avoid draughts and damp feet is essential, and nutritious food is powerful aid. The process seems as simple as did washing in the Jordan to Nasman the Syrian, but is completely effective in the end if faithfully practised month after month. FEB. 17.

The Briton All Right. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Please permit m.

papers worry about what is going to become of Great Britain. Now give the Briton time: he will come out all right at the finish and will have some thing to say later. GERMANTOWN, Pa., Feb. 21. The Late Daily Means.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The funeral of

Daily Means occurred last Saturday in Madison.

to remark that a very great many American news

NEW YORK, Feb. 21.

A Lost Tribe? TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: During the Crimean War the British raised a German legion They never got nearer the front than Malta, and when peace was declared all who wished-a large

when peace was declared all who wished—a large majority—were sent to the Cape of Good Hope as a sort of Cossack colony on the frontiers, getting instead of forty acres and a mule, all the laud they wanted and some stock and agricultural implements to start with, on the understanding that they were to stand off Zulus or other objectionable people when required.

What has become of the descendants of these men? Have they become Boers, or are they loyal Afrikanders? In all this South African talk, I haven't seem a syllatic about this tribe of the lass of the Hessians. Is it a lost tribe?

ART NOTES.

A collection of two score pictures and studies in pastel by Everett Shinn is on exhibition in one of the galleries of Boussod, Valadon & Co., 303 Fifth avenue, and will remain there until March 10. They show considerable dash and cleverness in handling but do not possess very serious qualities of form. The drawings depicting crowds of people, such as "Shoppers, Twenty-third street," No. 36, are among the best of the lot, for in these not much more than suggestion is attempted and the artist is happy with the placing of his color tints and blacks. unhampered by difficulties of line. There are various street scenes and views in New York squares which are not uninteresting, but the drawing of buildings is invariably shaky. While it is much to Mr. Shinn's credit that he is able to appreciate the picturesqueness of the subjects of this character to be found right here at home he might with profit study the work in similar fields by de Nittis and even that of Raffaelli. "Blockade at the Ferry Slip." No. 17, with an effect of snow, comes about as near to being entirely successful as any of these street scenes, but, in the collection as a whole, there is a lack of sincerity and a delight in trashy methods that augur ill for solid progress in the future.

Five portrait studies, or sketches, form a little group on one side of the gallery and have a superficial sort of value. The picture of Mr. Clyde Fitch (No. 5.) is not a good likeness either in face or in figure, but the books and table which form the background are cleverly indicated and very pretty in color. Of three portraits in costume of Miss Julia Mar.owe. perhars the one as Viola is the most satisfying. The fifth portrait is of Miss Elsie de Wolfe, and is not unattractive in general aspect.

The American Art Association announces the forthcoming exhibition and sale of a valuable collection of paintings by eminent old masters of the English, French, Dutch, Flemish and Italian schools, placed in their hands by Eugene Fischof of Paris and T. J. Blakeslee of this city. The exhibition will begin at the association's galleries in Madison Square on Monday. March 5, and the first of the two nights' sales at Chickering Hall will be on Friday, March 9.

The annual meeting of the Council of the Fine Arts Federation of New York will be held at the National Arts Club, 37 West Thirtyfourth street, on Thursday evening, March 10. The ticket for officers to be elected has been placed in nomination and names Frederick Crowninshield (mural painter) for President: Herbert Adams, N. A. (sculptor), for Vice-President; and Henry Rutgers Marshall (architect) for Secretary and Treasurer.

The Boston Art Students' Association for its annual loan exhibition will this year show the R. Hall McCormick collection of paintings and will open the exhibition with a reception at Copley Hall on Monday evening, March 5. These pictures belong in Chicago and consist, we believe, in large part of examples of the early English school. Mr. Holker Abbott is, as usual, at the head of the Exhibition Committee, which includes in its list of members several well-known ladies and Boston painters and amateurs.

Canals-in Canada and the United States. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In a speech delivered in Toronto a few days ago. the Hon. Israel I. Tarte, Canadian Minister of Public Works, declared that he was improving the harbors of Fort William, Owen Sound, Callingwood, Midland, Parry Sound. Port Cal-

Callingwood, Midland, Parry Sound. Port Calborne, Toronto and Kingston for the purpose of diverting Western traffic from American ports to the St. Lawrence route, and that a result satisfactory to Canada is assured.

In the speech from the throne at the opening of the Canadian Parliament the Governor-General congratulated the country "because the enlargement of the canals would divert a large traffic from American ports to tidewater at Montreal." On Wednesday iast, the following resolution was moved in the Commons of Canada. "Resolved that in the opinion of this House the time has arrived when a fixed and definite line of action should be undertaken on the question of the transportation of grain and other commodities of the Northwestern territories, Manitoba and the Western States with a view to centring the same to the greatest possible extent in Canadian channels." The above are official declarations, and not the speculative utterances of dreamers. Further The above are official declarations, and not the speculative utterances of dreamners. Further comment is unnecessary. We must meet Canadian competition or lose our export trade in grain and provisions. We have no time or money to waste in barge canals, 364 miles long, costing \$62,000,000.

From the Washington Post.

From the Wathington Post.

"I will tell you a story about a man who has a steady job as an innocent bystander," said Charles Hart of Louisville.

"Do you remember the Chicago drummer who had his leg broken in the crush when Dave Coison did his shooting at Frankfort a few weeks ago? I forget his name, Just two years to a week this same drummer happened to be around when a shooting took place. A stray bullet cut through the fleshy part of his thich. He was laid up for some time. His wife took a great dislike to the place and made him promise that he would never let business carry him there again. He kept away from the place until the time of the shooting.

"He had a little business there, and thought he would sneak over and not let his wife know. He had not been in Frankfort two hours until he was standing in the hotel when the shooting took place. He had his leg broken by being to get out of range. One of the men who was killed fell on him and broke two of his ribs."

killed fell on him and broke two of his ribs." The True Newyorkfulness.

They may talk about their rolling fields And sweeps of meadow green. And lowing herds and babbling brooks To liven up the scene: Of forest depths and booky dells And sweet serenity. But what I see in Central Park

They may talk about their country girls Pink cheeked and plump and round, As innocent as little lambs In pretty muslin gowned. And willing to be kissed, forsooth When they are fancy free: But just the same the New York girls Are good enough for me

Is good enough for me

They may talk about their Sabbath bells That call to church and prayer, And softly tinkling cow bells that Make music in the air. A time of melody. But still the New York street car gongs Are good enough for me.

They may talk about their thunders loud. That rend the rock-ribbed hills; Of roaring storms and howling blasts That put their noisy frills On Nature in a thousand forms And make her silence flee, But still the Elevated trains Are good enough for me.

They may talk about their shady lanes That lead through lovely vales; About their turnpikes, smooth and white Like crooked silver trails And of their lovers' path that wind Down to a restful sea. But just the same the Speedway is Quite good enough for me.

They may talk about their villa sites Where Nature has endowed The earth with richness, and the views Would make a painter proud; Where mountains kiss the fleecy clouds And valleys kiss the sea. But just the same Fifth avenue Is good enough for me.

They may talk about their country air. And how its sweet perfume Is gathered from the fresh ploughed fields And from the roses' bloom; And how each fragrant breath combines But just the same the New York smell Is good enough for me.

They may talk about their sorgs of birds That wake the morning air. And in a choir of consonance Rise joyous everywhere. To meet the newly risen ann With welcome minetrelay. But still the New York newsboys' yell Is good enough for me.

In other words I do not care What other things may be, The things we've got here in New York Are good enough for me.

A FREE MARKET FOR PUERTO RICO. Reasons Why Congress Ought to Be

Ashamed to Shut the Door. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: When the President of the United States proclaimed that it was our plain duty to throw down the trade barrier between the American island of Puerto Rico and the United States, the statement was se thoroughly in accord with the eternal fit-

ness of things that to question it seemed absurd. THE SUN, which so almost universally strikes the right American keynote as to be easily the most influential and the truest exponent of a wise and just public opinion, indorsed the President's views heartily, and acquiescence in them by Congress seemed to be a matter of

course. There is no question that the consensus of Congressional opinion, at the time the President's message appeared, was a concurrence with the President's common-sense views. But since then there have been occult forces at work, secretly canvassing for special interests, ignoring the good sense and the generosity of feeling of the masses of the people.

It is not the way of the typical American to do a good turn or an act of justice in a niggardly fashion. When he does anything for another it is in a right royal manner, such as warms the recipient's heart, and binds it with hooks of steel to his just and generous friend or benefactor.

What is true of the American, as an individual, is true of the American people. They do not stop to count pennies-or dollars-when an act of justice or whole-souled beneficence is to be done. The small-souled creatures, who have been doing the secret and underhanded nibbling at the deed of American Commercial Freedom to the suffering Puerto Ricans, are traversing the generous instincts and the spirit of justice of the American people.

But what would these small Americans have? Are they afraid of the productive energies of less than a million tropical people just hailing their deliverance from centuries of Spanish domination? It would be interesting to have a composite photograph of the faces of the men who seek to thwart the will of the American people. Are they afraid of the two or three thousand tons of tobacco raised in Rico? That tobacco used to reach the United States via Cuba as Havana tobacco. Under commerical freedom it will have to pay our

commerical freedom it will have to payour internal revenue tax.

Is it the 75,000 tons of sugar the islanders raise—about 4 per cent. of the consumption of the United States? As to that, we long ago admitted sugar from the Hawaiian Islands without duty before those islands became American territory. Cane sugar was a domestic production, yet we aid not shy at admitting it free from Hawaii.

tion, yet we aid not shy at admitting it freefrom Hawaii.

Perhaus it is the \$5,000,000 worth of coffee
that stimulates the enemies of Puerto Rico to
"pernicious activity." Hardly, Yet why should
we not take a pride in having a moderate portion of our coffee consumption produced on
American soil, and welcome it, instead of paying out an enormous sum for it to be largely
expended in Europe? For it is a well-known
fact that but a moderate percentage of the
money we pay to Brazil for coffee is spent again
in the United States.

And what about the thirty-odd thousand tons
of honey which our friends, the Puerto Rican
bees, annually collect? Would it not add a
presently infrequent sweetness to our breakfast table to have that honey come to us untrammelled by an internal tariff?

Perhaps it is tropical fruits which disturb the
equanimity of some of these gentlemen? But
will the common people say they ever got fruit
enough, whether oranges, lemons or bananas?
Why is it not a good thing to have a little
banana belt all our own on Puerto Rican soil?
Our fast steamers now scour the seas and
bring us bananas from many other islands and
from the Central American coasts. We never
seem to get too many of them, and we cer-

Our fast steamers now scour the seas and bring us bananas from many other islands and from the Central American coasts. We never seem to get too many of them, and we certainly have no banana industry on any other American soil to be put in jeopardy.

As to oranges and lemons the nose of Florida projects just out of the region of snow and ice, and gives us three or four hundred thousand boxes of oranges per annum. Once the people there were happy in the production of 4,500,000 boxes, but tariff protection without climatic protection was unavailing and Jack Frost reclaimed the peninsula for his very own. So now we must depend on California for 5,000,000 boxes of lemons, all charged with a six-thousand-mile round trip by rail. The amount is far too small, and other millions of boxes come to us from Sicily and Italy in the interregnum of the California seasons, Here is the niche for Puerto Rican citrus fruitage of the province of the contral contractions controlled contral contral contral contral contral contractions are contracted as a contraction of the contraction contraction contractions are contracted as a contraction contraction contraction.

Let us welcome her to it. Let the discouraged Florida citrus growers flock to the new An eririorida citrus growers nock to the new An erican tropical soil!

In the delightful island of Puerto Rico there are 1,300 watered valleys! Happy valleys!

American valleys of the blest! There may the Floridian fruit grower be happy and prosperous again in a climate where Jack Frost never shows his hoary face to make the orchardist afraid.

never shows his hoary face to make the orchardist afraid.

But it is further urged that 90 per cent. of the Puerto Ricans cannot read or write! Well, what of it? Would they not hail with joyous acclaim—have they not already so hailed—the advent of the schoolmaster among them? Why twit them with the results of Spanish misrule—with the consequences of the robbery from them of two-thirds their revenues? A decade of the American schoolmistress will work wonders among the younger people. Who that has seen the kindling eyes of the little Italian children in American schools as they salute the American banner, the flag of the only country that most of them have ever known, can fail to realize the potentiality of American citizenship in the tots of any language and any country over which floats the grand old flag of the free?

You have well said that Puerto Ricans are as ready for commercial freedom as they are for sunshine. The latter they have in glorious measure: the former it is ours to bestow. Let them have it in a royal, whole-souled American way! Out upon the penny counters! Let them go hide their heads: the American people are ashamed of them!

George W. Dithridge.

Common-Law Marriage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your oditorial on "Common-Law Marriage" is timely. since whatever legislation is adopted on the subject should be well matured and be thoroughly understood by the public. The substitute for the Weekes bill, suggested by your editorial, seems, however, inadequate. While, as you correctly say, the chief evil of the present system is the opportunity afforded for the presentation of fraudulent claims for dower, equal opportunity is given by existing law for fraudalent claims of alleged issue of such mar-

riages. The records of our courts show also numer ous suits for separation or divorce, or police court proceedings to compel support, based upon alleged common-law marriages, where the circumstances are such as to create strong likelihood that the relation of the parstrong likelihood that the relation of the parties was wholly meretricious. The tendency of juries upon a conflict of evidence is to believe the statements of a woman, rather than east upon her the stigma of unchastity, and the result is that a man may find himself bound for life upon the verdict of a jury based upon evidence which to another jury would appear wholly insufficient, and which is in fact untrue. The law itself recognizes a presumption that the relations between the parties are legal rather than illegal, and we thus may be said to have, at present, a form of marriage "by presumption of law."

It has been the law for over two centuries that contracts which are not to be performed within a year must be evidenced by a writing. The reason for this is that where the right of action will not accrue until a considerable time after the alleged contract, an opportunity for successful fraud is given, if oral evidence is admitted. The same reason exists in greater force in the case of marriage, where the claim may be presented at any time during the lifetime of the parties, or not until years after the death of one of them.

It is not only the man who has become entangled with a designing woman who is to be protected. His lawful wife and her children may be required upon very doubtful proof, aided by a presumption of law, to share with a former mistress and her children the property, exclusively to them, and to bear the stigma in the public eye of bigamy and illegitimacy.

Under our existing laws, compromise of fraudulent claims of this character is almost compulsory, and it is hardly too much to say that blackmall by adventuresses is sanctioned by law. ties was wholly meretricious. The tendency

compulsory, and it is hardly too much to say that blackmail by adventuresses is sanctioned by law.

The evil of the proposed legislation is clearly pointed in the last sentence of your editorial.

To prohibit non-ceremonial marriages altogether might leave many honest women in unpleasant positions." This, however, is true of the existing law. The experience of Pennsylvania, where a public license is essential to a marriage, has not indicated that this evil counterbalances the good. The greatest evil is that which allows any uncertainty as to the existence of a marriage contract.

The Weekes law, if enacted, should, however, be accompanied with such an amendament of the criminal law as will make seduction under any form or pretence of marriage not valid at law, equally criminal with seduction under promise of marriage. If anything, the penalty should be greater.

New York, Feb. 22. WOOLSEY CARMALT.

Crab Writes.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: I have just received a letter from Crab Alaway, of Orion, Ala.